Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 7, proxy applications 480 performs a number of different types of proxy services. A first type of proxy service relates to multiplexing multiple data flows within a single transport layer protocol data stream coupling access device 220 and another access device 220 at another site. A multiplexing proxy 710 implements a type of multiplexing is described in ~~co-pending patent application no. 08/886,869~~ U.S. Patent 6,266,701, "Apparatus and method for improving throughput on a data network," which is incorporated herein by reference. Alternative embodiments use other well known approaches to multiplexing, or "tunneling," multiple data flows, for example to implement virtual private network (VPN) arrangements coupling sites 250. Note also that although described in terms of access devices 220 at different sites 250 cooperating to implement the multiplexing arrangement, a proxy application of an access device 220 may alternatively cooperate with a dedicated server at another site that is not part of a similar access device 220.